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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Klaus FISCHER et al.
Serial No. : Not yet known (U.S. National Stage of PCT/DE99/04029
filed December 17, 1999)
Filed : Concurrently herewith
For : ORGANIC FERTILIZER HAVING HUMIC PROPERTIES, ITS
METHOD OF PRODUCTION AND ITS USE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-10 and substitute therefor the following claims:

--11. A method for the production of organic fertilizer of humic-like nature, comprising suspending lignite in an aqueous-ammoniacal medium of pH greater than about 9 and up to about 12, dissolving partially and oxidizing the lignite at a temperature of about 20 to about 100°C under atmospheric pressure thereby to obtain the organic fertilizer as a dispersion in aqueous medium and thickening or drying the dispersion, the organic fertilizer having a C/N ratio of about 9 to about 15.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the aqueous-ammoniacal medium is a